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Notification of Reason(s) of Rejection (Translation)

Application Number	2001-261736	
Drafting Date	February 12, 2004	
Examiner	Tatsuya YAMASHITA	9645 5L00
Representative	Seigoh SUZUKI, et al.	
Provision(s) Applied	The main paragraph of Patent Law Section 29	
	Patent Law Section29 (2)	

This application should be rejected by the following reasons. If the applicant disagree with the rejection, the applicant can file an argument within 60 days from the dispatch date of this notification.

Reasons

A. The inventions in the claims listed below of this application should not be granted a patent, since the invention does not comply with the requirements under the main paragraph of Patent Law Section 29(1).

Note

With regard to the inventions in claims 1-4

Remarks:

In claims 1-4, the methods for managing fees, which are methods of doing business, are described. Since the idea of information processing concretely realized by software using hardware resources is not described, the descriptions indicate merely arbitrary arrangement. Therefore, the inventions in claims 1-4 do not fall under the invention, which is defined as a creation of technical ideas, by which a law of nature is utilized.

With regard to the inventions in claims 5-10

Remarks:

In respect of systems for managing fees, the inventions in claims 5-7 specify the means (i.e., black box specifying solely general features), which is the

characterizing portion of the inventions. For operating apparently as such, the inventions do not specify what content of data is prerecorded by storing or inputting in what specific relations among data, in what timing and what algorithm said data are taken, processed, outputted. Accordingly, since it is not particularly described to the extent that the operation of said system can be understood as information processing realized by utilizing hardware resources of the computer, the inventions in these claims do not fall under the invention which is defined as a creation of technical ideas using a law of nature.

The program described in claims 8-10 is similar to the above mentioned.

B. The inventions in the claims listed below of this application should not be granted a patent under the provision of Patent Law Section 29(2) since it could have easily been made by persons who have common knowledge in the technical field to which the inventions pertain, on the basis of the inventions described in the publications listed below which were distributed in Japan or foreign countries or via internet prior to the filing of the present application.

Note (See the list of cited documents etc.)

With regard to the inventions in claims 1-10; Cited documents 1, 2

Remarks:

See the cited document 1.

The idea of including information data identifying payers of license using fees, such as identified information data etc. of the distribution structure in the conditions of license agreement, and sorting said data based on said data at the license management center is within a range of design variation for a person skilled in the art.

Also, the matter of data identification using an IC card (i.e., Recording medium) and writing a history in an IC card is described in the cited document 2.

Additionally, the matter of determining to what extent a program or data should be included in respective content for communicating a status of use, and making its rest used as a external program for sharing among all the contents, is within a range of design variation for a person skilled in the art.

The list of cited documents etc.

1. JP11-259574
2. JP2000-36781

Result of Search for prior art

Field Searched IPC(7) G06F17/60

This record is not a component of the reasons for refusal.

If you have any inquiries concerning this notification of reasons for refusal, or for any interview you may wish, please contact us at the following number.

4th Patent Examination Dept. Electronic Commerce Division

Examiner

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